

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The term “bivalent” has been deleted from the specification and claims on the basis that it is believed to be unnecessary in describing the copper ions. The copper ions are inherently bivalent. Accordingly, the objection to the specification and the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, on the basis of new matter has been overcome.

Claims 36-38, 43-46, 49, 51-52 and 57-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Cheung et al., U.S. Patent number 6,258,233. This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome based upon the incorporation of the subject matter of non-rejected claims 40 and 42 into claim 36, and the incorporation of the subject matter of non-rejected claims 54 and 56 into claim 49.

Lastly, claims 39-42, 47-48, 53-56 and 61-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Cheung et al. ‘233 in view of Kikuchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,563,217. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed as applied to the claims after the foregoing amendments.

In item 11 on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has taken the position that Kikuchi et al. ‘217 discloses details of the polyoxyethylene series surface active agent in the dependent claims. In this regard, Kikuchi et al. only discloses **amine** series polyoxyethylene surface active agents (claim 19), **alkylamine** series polyoxyethylene surface active agents (claim 20), **alkyl ester** series polyoxyethylene surface active agents (claim 21), **alkyl aryl ether** series polyoxyethylene surface active agents (claim 22), and **acetylene-bond-containing** polyoxyethylene surface active agents (claims 23). Thus, Kikuchi et al. does disclose **alkyl aryl ether** series polyoxyethylene surface active agents but fails to teach or suggest use of polyoxyethylene **alkylether phosphoric acid** or polyoxyethylene **alkylether**.

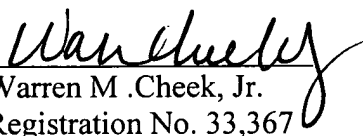
As described in the previous response, the alkyl aryl ether series polyoxyethylene surface active agent represented by the formula (5) at column 3, line 20 of Kikuchi et al. is exactly what the Applicant defines as endocrine disruptors, i.e., polyoxyethylene alkylphenylether. Accordingly, the surface active agents disclosed in Kikuchi et al. are

clearly structurally different from the claimed electroless copper plating liquid that contains no endocrine disruptors. The cited reference fails to disclose or suggest the claimed method using alkyl ether series polyoxyethylene agents.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments clearly distinguish the present invention from the invention of Kikuchi et al. Favorable reconsideration and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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